Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) In a communication system in which a first station initiates communication with at least a second station and provides an initial real-time media signal for transmission to the second station, wherein the initial real-time media signal comprises an initial real-time media stream of a packet-based real-time media session between the first station and the second station, a method comprising:

buffering the initial real-time media signal until a transmission path exists to send the initial real-time media signal along its way toward the second station; and

thereafter sending the initial real-time media signal along its way toward the second station.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein

the first station sends the real-time media signal to an intermediate entity, and the intermediate entity sends the real-time media signal along its way toward the second station;

buffering the initial real-time media signal until a transmission path exists to send the initial real-time media signal along its way toward the second station comprises buffering the initial real-time media signal in the first station until a transmission path exists to send the initial real-time media signal from the first station to the intermediate entity; and

sending the initial real-time media signal along its way toward the second station comprises sending the initial real-time media signal from the first station to the intermediate entity.

McDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP
300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606
TELEPHONE (312) 913-0001

3. (Original) The method of claim 2,

wherein the intermediate entity comprises a communication server that establishes respective RTP legs with the first station and the second station and bridges the RTP legs together; and

wherein buffering the initial real-time media signal in the first station until a transmission path exists to send the initial real-time media signal from the first station to the intermediate entity comprises:

buffering the initial real-time media signal in the first station until an RTP leg has been established between the first station and the communication server.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1,

the first station sends the real-time media signal to an intermediate entity, and the intermediate entity sends the real-time media signal along its way toward the second station;

buffering the initial real-time media signal until a transmission path exists to send the initial real-time media signal along its way toward the second station comprises buffering the initial real-time media signal in the intermediate entity until a transmission path exists to send the initial real-time media signal from the intermediate entity to the second station; and

sending the initial real-time media signal along its way toward the second station comprises sending the initial real-time media signal from the intermediate entity to the second station.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4,

McDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP
300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606
TELEPHONE (312) 913-0001

wherein the intermediate entity comprises a communication server that establishes respective RTP legs with the first station and the second station and bridges the RTP legs together; and

wherein buffering the initial real-time media signal in the intermediate entity until a transmission path exists to send the initial real-time media signal from the intermediate entity to the second station comprises:

buffering the initial real-time media signal in the communication server until an RTP leg has been established between the communication server and the second station.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first station is a mobile station.

7-17. (Cancelled)

McDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP
300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606
TELEPHONE (312) 913-0001